

Partnership Combats Mental Health Crisis in Liberia

A decade of civil conflict and the outbreak of Ebola have created a mental health crisis in Liberia that has been intensified by misconceptions, stigma and the resulting discrimination surrounding mental illnesses.

To help alleviate this crisis, The Carter Center, MAP International, and the Liberian Ministry of Health have formed a new partnership to provide neuropsychiatric medicines and supplies to the Liberian Ministry of Health. These medications will be distributed to hospitals, health centers, and clinics (public and private) throughout Liberia, where there are trained health care workers, including mental health clinicians.

“Access to neuropsychiatric medication is a step in the efforts to bolster mental wellness in Liberians. We are grateful that this partnership with MAP International complements our work with the Liberian Ministry of Health to reduce suffering and increase the quality of life for those living with mental illnesses in Liberia,” said Carter Center CEO Ambassador Mary Ann Peters.

The Ebola outbreak in 2014 exacerbated mental health problems and exposed the impacts of the shortage of mental health care trained professionals and inadequate supplies of essential neuropsychiatric medications. The Carter Center has supported the Liberian government to strengthen the mental health system and respond to the intermediate psychosocial impact of the Ebola outbreak.



Dr. Francis Kateh, Deputy Minister of Health, Chief Medical Officer, and acting Minister of Health in Liberia, said: “The integration of mental health care services into the primary health care system is vital to Liberia’s future development and overall prosperity. People with mental health conditions may have trouble managing everyday lifetasks at school, work, or maintaining relationships. The medicine donated by MAP International through The Carter Center is highly appreciated, and it will go a long way in helping clients suffering from bipolar disorders and epilepsy. One of the major challenges of providing care for those people is the lack of essential neuropsychiatric medications.”

“This represents a critical extension of our mission,” said MAP International President Steve Stirling. “We work best in partnership with others. The programs being carried out by the

Ministry and the Carter Center will have a much greater impact for the people of Liberia because of MAP’s collaboration.”

The first shipment of medicine left MAP International’s Global Medicines Distribution Center, arrived in Liberia February 25. Licensed clinicians are now prescribing these medicines you helped supply through your support of MAP.

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Medical Mission Packs Take Mission Trips to a Whole New Level

When members of the National Presbyterian Church (NPC) in Washington, D.C., planned their summer mission trip to the Dominican Republic, they hoped to help a local church with their building project and do some projects with children during their Vacation Bible School.

But when they were able to bring a MAP Medical Mission Pack along, the trip changed. "It would have been a good trip, but thanks to the medicines we were able to bring, it became a great trip," said Donna Marsh, mission pastor.

Using the medicines from MAP, the NPC volunteers joined their local Dominican church members in creating a "pop up clinic" for a day. Local doctors volunteered their time and members of the community visited the church for check ups and to ask for medical advice.

"It was wonderful to not just tell people what was wrong, but to be able to give them quality medicines for free," said Dr. Cece Lugo. "Medicines are not readily available to the average person so this was a wonderful gift."



If your church, school or other group are planning a summer mission trip, now is the time to order your Medical Mission Pack. Take your trip from good to great with medicines from MAP. www.map.org/medicine 

Q:

With all the different medicines available, how does MAP choose which medicines to provide to those in need?



A:

Although there are thousands of medicines available, the World Health Organization estimates that just 40 essential medicines can treat 90 percent of the illnesses in the world. That's why MAP specializes in providing these often life-saving medicines, including antibiotics, fever-reducers, anti-seizure medications, and oral rehydration therapies. MAP also provides medicines to help manage diabetes, treat hypertension and other cardiovascular diseases.

In addition, MAP works with local partners to provide medicines that are appropriate and effective for local populations as well as medicines that can be stored without refrigeration, which is often unavailable in resource-poor countries. MAP also works with partners responding to particular needs, procuring the medicines needed to treat a specific illness or outbreak.

Hurricane Update—Six Months Later

More than six months after hurricanes devastated the Caribbean, Texas, Florida, and Georgia, thousands are still putting their lives back together.

In Puerto Rico alone, 121,000 residents are still without power and some remote clinics are struggling to supply help to those in need. That's why MAP continues to help the residents, shipping seven 40 foot containers just since January, containing water filters and desperately needed medicine.

In February, MAP shipped another \$178,000 worth of supplies to those still recovering from Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

This help comes on top of the \$26 million worth of medicines and supplies provided in 2017 to those impacted by the unprecedented devastation of hurricanes last fall.

Even as MAP continues to provide for those in need, we are preparing to respond to the upcoming hurricane and other natural disasters that often hit in the summer. To learn more about how MAP helps those dealing with disasters, go to www.map.org/disasters.

How Changes in the Tax Law Affect Your Donations



The tax reform bill, signed into law for 2018, aims to simplify the way most Americans file taxes. But the conversation around charitable contributions is often confusing. Here are some of the basic guidelines to help you understand how the new tax law relates to you and support to MAP International:

1. Donations to MAP and other nonprofit organizations are still tax deductible.

All donations to qualified tax exempt organizations like MAP are still tax deductible. The bill changed the way some taxpayers will file their taxes. Some taxpayers will choose not to itemize their deductions and instead use the new standard deduction.

2. MAP will continue to provide tax receipts for donations.

When you send a gift to MAP, we will send you a tax receipt you can use when you file taxes (if you choose to itemize your deductions). At the end of the year we will send you a summary of your year's contributions.

3. The bill does not affect taxes you will file this April.

The new tax guidelines go into effect for 2018 and do not change how you file your taxes for 2017 (due April 15, 2018).

4. Some donors will want to advance their donations to MAP in 2018.

You may still choose to itemize your deductions for 2018, depending on your income and other factors. Check with your tax preparer in the next few months to plan ahead.

If you are close to the amount needed to itemize, you may want to increase your donation to meet the minimum threshold. Some advisors suggest advancing your donations for the next year into this calendar year in order to meet the required amount.

5. Donations are more important than ever to the work of MAP.

MAP International depends on donations to provide life-changing and life-saving medicine to those in need. We know that most donors are not motivated to give primarily because of tax benefits. However, like many other charities, we know that 2018 may be a more difficult year for us because some donors will not receive an extra tax benefit. Because of that, your support is more important to us than ever.

We are so grateful for your support and we want you to know that every donation you make changes lives. Please check with your tax preparer or financial advisor for specific advice on your taxes and financial situation. This information is only meant to provide a basic overview.

MAP Medicines Answer Prayers



As she left, Soledad hugged the doctor, and in Spanish said that the medical mission team was God's answer to her prayers for help.

The town of San Rafael sits on the outskirts of Puerto Penasco, a Mexican fishing town that has become a tourist destination for residents of Arizona and California. The shanty homes with poor sanitation stand in stark contrast to the luxury resorts and vacation homes nearby.

For Soledad, a single mother residing in San Rafael, the resorts are her livelihood. She cleans the homes of many in the area, eking out a living to support her two children.

But recently her children got sick and she was unable to work for two weeks due to lack of childcare. Soledad was tearful when she arrived at the church clinic in San Rafael with her ill two-year daughter, Angelica. Unable to afford medicine for her family, let alone a trip to the doctor; Soledad prayed for an answer to her plight.

Fortunately, her daughter was able to be treated with medicines provided by MAP. She walked out of the church clinic clutching the medications and vitamins for her and her children.

Now Soledad's children are well and she is able to go back to work and support her family. Thanks to donors who support MAP's work, medical mission teams like the one who helped Soledad are answering prayers in some of the most forgotten places in the world.

To learn more about taking a Medical Mission Pack on your next trip, go to www.map.org/medicine



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View this newsletter
online and share it at
www.map.org/newsletter.

Mudslides Devastate Bolivia

When the Taquina River flooded in February, mudslides devastated parts of Bolivia, damaging the MAP health office and taking the life of a MAP-trained health promoter. Thousands remain homeless and in need of help. Thanks to all who have given to support those who are suffering.



To learn more, go to
www.map.org/bolivia-relief

